

Washington, DC – Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) will join with thousands of bicycling commuters and activists in celebrating National Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20, 2005. He will lead a bike ride by the Congressional Bike Caucus from Garfield Circle at 7:40 am before making remarks at the Annual Bike to Work Day Celebration at 8:00 am at Freedom Plaza.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), which is organizing National Bike to Work Day activities in Washington, DC, expects over 5,000 bike commuters to participate in Friday's activities, including the opening celebration.

Blumenauer, a long-time bicycling activist and founder of the Congressional Bike Caucus, recently introduced H.Con.Res.145, a resolution to honor May as National Bike Month. This bill was unanimously passed by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on Wednesday, May 18th and awaits floor approval by the U.S. House.

Recently, Blumenauer's "Conserve by Bicycle" amendment was included into the Energy Policy Act (H.R. 6) passed by the House of Representatives last month. This amendment establishes within the Department of Transportation a Conserve by Bike pilot program, which will oversee up to 10 pilot projects across the country designed to conserve energy resources by providing education and marketing tools to convert car trips to bike trips.

In February, Blumenauer also introduced the Bike Commuter Act, H.R. 807, which would allow employees who bike to work the same financial incentives that are available for parking and mass transit. The bill would change the Transportation Fringe Benefit of the tax code to include bike commuters.

WHAT: Blumenauer on National Bike To Work Day

WHEN: Friday, May 20th, 2005
Congressional Bike Caucus Ride: 7:40-7:55 a.m.
Remarks to other bike commuters: 8:00 a.m.

WHERE: Garfield Circle
West Front of U.S. Capitol
Freedom Plaza
Pennsylvania Avenue NW, between 13th and 14th Street

Washington, DC